

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Minister: Rev. Jon Rehmus

Organist: Morgan Markel

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

In John's Gospel, after haranguing and teasing the crowds, Pilate, in private, debates Jesus and asks with seeming contempt, "What is truth?"

Earlier, Jesus had taught his disciples how the messianic spirit would prove (or "convict") the world wrong "about sin and about righteousness and about judgment" (also translated, "about wrongdoing and about rightness and about judgment"). In short, the Teacher rejects a social order so twisted around people know neither what right nor wrong is, and they can't distinguish between them.

The gospel is powerful because so many of the situations, symbols, and character types are universal. Plutocrats, demagogues, and crass manipulators of the truth have ever whipped up crowds and divided people. Ever there are the likes of lordly Caiaphas, "We'll kill one person to save everybody." The U.S. presidential campaign demonstrates that *many* people (not just this or that candidate) are willing to isolate and persecute certain people—Muslims, Mexicans, the list goes on—in the notion that everybody will be more secure and free. Many in our society are willing to trade away truth for the entertainment of seeing others—opponents or journalists, for example—mocked.

Like trading Barabbas for Jesus, it's truth and ethics premised on wielding and dealing in the truth, not embodying it as a life principle. People seeking salvation in the Greatest Dealmaker in the World while throwing others under the bus? Whatever the context, Caesar or places like Caesar's Palace, it's an old story. The plot usually involves truly good and common folk getting nailed and having to rise above. Embodying Messiah (or Christ) is the Truth, it is living now and even sacrificially way beyond and better than this twisted-up social order. It is a spirit and ethic of truth and salvation premised on mutuality, equality, and loving one another.

In faith and service,
—Jon

Welcome Spring and the Easter Season!

Along with our March 6 and 20 Lenten services (which include sharing communion), we will celebrate Easter with a special service on Sunday, March 27 at 10 AM. All are welcome regardless of faith perspective or religious practice: these ancient stories and symbols continue to offer meaning both trans-religious and liberating. The word "Easter" itself derives from pagan origins!

Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

From Rev. Jon: Most Thursday afternoons I am in Cummington and am happy to schedule appointments for mornings and evenings those days. I can often make in-person appointments Tuesday afternoon or 1st & 3rd Sundays after lunch. I am also glad to talk by phone, and please do call (413-624-3025) and leave a message in emergencies or if you seek 24-hour turn-around. I do not check email every day.

After 4:45 PM on Thursdays, you can find me in our lovely church study. This winter, Darlene Graham and I again invite you to sow awareness and peace into your approach to the weekend with the body-mind exercises of Yoga, 4:00–5:30 PM and Silent Meditation, 5:45–6:15 PM.

Feel free to attend either program or both. Those who would like to ring the church bells—reminding all of us to breathe peace into our lives—can also arrive at the conclusion of meditation.

Steps to a Renewable Future

Join us for an intergenerational march along the proposed pipeline route! The dates are March 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th.

Walk with us for all or part of this four day journey to demonstrate the widespread resistance to the Kinder Morgan pipeline and our deep commitment to powering our future through energy efficiency and renewables. We will have evening events, song and community to inspire us in this fight of a lifetime.

The walk begins at the proposed compressor station in Windsor, Mass and ends at the proposed compressor station in Northfield, Mass. Our route stays near the proposed path of the pipeline through the towns along the way.

We walk to increase public awareness of the pipeline and the impact of fracked gas everywhere.

The walk is organized by the Sugar Shack Alliance in collaboration with many local organizations. For more information about the walk and the schedule, go to the Sugar Shack Alliance webpage: sugarshackalliance.org

There is a link on the webpage to sign up for the walk.

Betsy Corner

413-624-8858

273 Shelburne Line Rd, Colrain, MA, 01340

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Susan Riley at 634-8055, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

From the Librarian's Desk

After our celebratory day with Bill Streeter here at the BFL in January (I still can't believe you missed it), Fran Henry dropped off a copy of her recent book *Tales of a Wayside Community* for him at his Northampton residence. During our following weekly phone call, Bill gushed with enthusiasm about it, so I asked him if he'd comment on it for the GWM. He gladly agreed, and here's what he had to say:

Elaine and myself, being former Cumingtonites, were personal friends with many of the characters in Fran Henry's *Tales of a Wayside Community*. So when we read it there were lots of tears, lots of smiles, and some feelings of loneliness... as well as joy and nostalgia for the old hometown.

Fran does a superior job in detailing different scenes in her story. An example would be the packing of ice in the icehouse. Every detail of the process is so accurately described.

As William Faulkner did so well in bringing out the accent of his characters with their southern drawl, Fran brings out that Yankee accent of Harry Kenney. It's wonderful to document that part of Yankee history, for it's fast being lost forever.

The quality of the production of the book is amazing. Fran and her East Branch Press (I love that name) have surpassed most all other books of the same category, both in appearance and endurance. A window in the cover and Smyth sewn no less!

Congratulations Fran for a job well done.

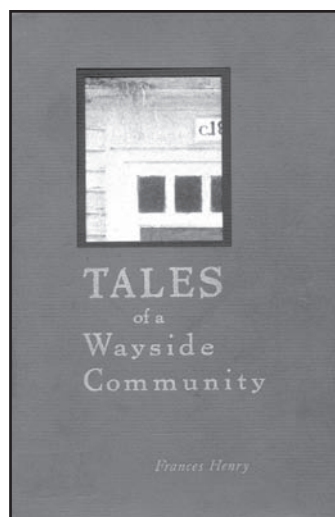
—Bill Streeter, February 23rd, 2016

Bill told me that he'd never done a book review before, and was glad that his first one concerned a work about Cumington.

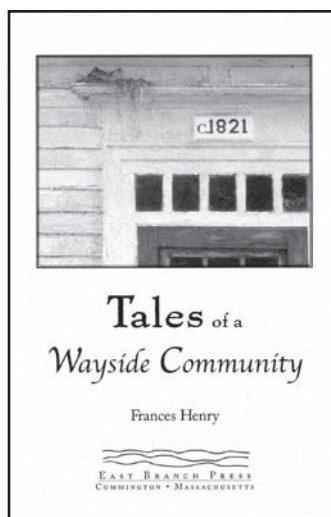
Many thanks to Fran Henry for the excellent and welcome addition to our local literature, and to Bill Streeter for adding his pearls of wisdom. Really now, how does it get any better than this?

See you at the library!

—Mark



Outer Cover



Inner Cover

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the April issue is March 25, 2016. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cumington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Artist's Talk

Felice Caivano will speak on Friday, March 4 at 7:30 PM at The Worthington Historical Society, 6 Williamsburg Road, in Worthington. She is Fine Arts Curator and Collections Manager of the Department of Fine Arts, Trinity College, Hartford, CT. She is also Department Chair and Professor, Visual Art Department, Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA.

Caivono, an artist and resident of Southampton, MA, will speak about her work on wall plaques. She has exhibited in numerous galleries throughout the Valley.

This artist talk is sponsored by Arts Alive in the Hilltowns. Donations are appreciate.

For more information contact Peter McLean at 413 238-5349 or pcmclean70@yahoo.com

Christening at the Village Church

On February 21st, Brooklyn Olivia Renderer was christened at the Village Church. This was a homecoming of sorts for mother Angie Harrison who grew up here and attended the church in her youth. It was a pleasure to see her again, and to meet her husband Levi and of course, little Brooklyn. A sizable contingent of the Harrison clan came to view the christening and attend the party for Brooklyn's first birthday.



Jon Rehmsus sings to Brooklyn during the Christening ceremony as deacon Susan Riley, mother Angie and father Levi look on.



Phoebe Harrison and Caz Wachtel perform the candlelighting ceremony.



Organist Morgan Markel played a wonderful Bach postlude.

And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley, "The Sensitive Plant"

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 634-5084. The church charges a very nominal fee to cover upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Community House News

Dog licenses will be available on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:30 AM–11:00 AM. Please have a copy of rabies certificate with you.

The Town Caucus will be on March 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM. This is for nominating candidates for the Town Officers to be elected May 9, 2016. The caucus will be held at the Community House.

The Massachusetts primary election was on March 1, 2016. we hope everyone made your voice heard!

Friday Night Café

The Valentine's Dance on Saturday February 12 was a big success, even tho the crowd was a little smaller due to the frigid temperatures and wind chill. Jim Kaminsky was back again with his band mates Rudi Weeks on drums and Bill McManus on guitar. Their rocking blues really got people dancing. It was just what was needed for a cold February night.



From left: Bill McManus, Rudi Weeks, Jim Kaminski

On Friday February 27, Laurie Israel and David Perkins returned with a collection Of instrumentals and songs ranging from Edvard Grieg to Rodgers and Hammerstein with Appalachian ballads in between. There were folk songs, and show tunes, songs tragic and songs funny. Over thirty people were there to enjoy it all.

Come to the Friday Night Café on the second and fourth Fridays of the month for good music and conversation. It's here, it's near and it's FREE!



From left: Laurie Israel, David Perkins



Solarize Plainfield Big Success

The good news is that in 2015 Plainfield led the way in partnering with Ashfield and Buckland to win a \$7,500 Solarize Mass grant. After interviewing 5 solar photovoltaic (PV) installers from a pool of 8 applicants, the 3 towns picked Direct Energy Solar as the official installer. There were 30 Solarize PV contracts signed in Plainfield, 30 of them new systems, one an addition to an existing system. There were also perhaps 2 other non-Solarize contracts. This more than sextupled the number of PV systems in Plainfield from 6 to 38.

The total added Solarize PV capacity will be 220 kilowatts (kW). When fully operational this will result in a reduction of 168 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year or the equivalent of taking 35.5 cars off the road or saving 18,948 gallons of gasoline.

For all 3 towns, known as Solarize PAB, there were 116 contracts signed with a capacity of 858.4 kW. This equals saving 651 metric tons of CO2 yearly or taking 137 cars off the road or saving 73,265 gallons of gas.

Solarize PAB had 6.6% of households sign contracts, second in the Solarize Mass program only to Wellfleet on Cape Cod. The Mass Clean Energy Center and the Department of Energy Resources run Solarize Mass.

Windsor has formed a Solarize committee to apply for a 2016 Solarize grant. However to apply for a grant there must be 1,000 owner-occupied homes; Windsor alone cannot do this and must partner with up to 3 other nearby towns.

Each town would receive a \$5,000 grant to promote solar PV. There is an April 30th deadline to apply for the grant. If people are interested in helping to Solarize the Hilltowns, please call Jan Bradley at 413-684-3732 or Tim Walter at 413-634-8098.

Other international news is that in 2014 Germany generated 27% of its electricity from renewables, such as solar, wind, and hydro, while China was at 21% and the U.S. was at 12%.

—Tim Walter

Friday Night Café in March

March 11, 7–9 PM—David Bartley and Blue Jazz—These guys have been here before and always have a tasty collection of tunes and excellent musicianship. Don't miss them!

March 18, 7–10 PM—Jam—Bring your instrument, your voice, or just sit and enjoy.

March 25—Viatsa—"The husband and wife duo performs traditional and original folk and blues tunes that are sure to get you moving and singing."

March At the Village Church

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Yoga, 4:00–5:30 PM and Silent Meditation, 5:45–6:15 PM.

March 6—Lenten Service 10 AM

March 11—Friday Night Café

March 18—Friday Night Jam

March 20—Lenten Service 10 AM

March 25—Friday Night Café

March 27—Inclusive Easter Service 10 AM

Visit the Friday Night Café at:

<http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org/FNC.html>

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P.O. Box 76
Cummington, MA 01026

Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

If you would like an electronic copy instead of a paper one, include your email on the form below and we will email the Goodwill Messenger to you.

Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to Cummington senior citizens

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

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